

MIDDLESEX COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

LITERACY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 7, 2014

Present: Gloria Aftanski, Melissa Cohen, Tom Crane, Senovia Robles, Jessica Tomkins

Staff: Jane Brady

The members had no corrections or additions to the minutes from the September meeting.

Jane informed the committee that the enrollment to date in the two Learning Links is 86. Our goal is 155 participants for the year. There is still a concern regarding the enrollment in Perth Amboy, especially in the afternoon session. On-going discussions will try to resolve this concern. Both instructors requested additional instructional materials and these materials have arrived and will be given to each Learning Link

Tom gave the Consortium report. As always, the level of services being provided is exceeding the grant requirements. Both New Brunswick and Perth Amboy have full classes and try to keep adding more as space and budget allow. Perth Amboy now has classes in locations other than the Education Center on Barracks Street. The rescission recently enacted has not necessitated decreasing the services to residents. The additional funds were to be used for Professional Development, not direct services, and could only be used to pay a consultant not to help to pay the teachers during professional development sessions. Perth Amboy did hire a consultant for a workshop during regular school hours. New Brunswick received free professional development from a consultant. All members of the Consortium are providing the required classes and submitting reports.

The Committee discussed in detail the new Alternative High School Diploma situation. Both New Brunswick and Perth Amboy have chosen to offer the McGraw Hill test and both hope to start testing in March. New Brunswick may also offer the ETS test. Faculty teaching the preparation classes is using much of the same materials used in the past, as long as they conform to the Core Curriculum outline. Until the test is administered and results come in as to the effectiveness of this approach, no changes will be made in these classes.

Jane announced that her office has entered into a contract agreement with Middlesex County College to offer a Conversational English class for WIA eligible participants starting in February on the main campus. This 20 hour a week class will have rolling enrollment and participants are expected to attend for up to 4 weeks. This is a pilot program through June and then will be evaluated to see if enough people take advantage of the opportunity. The counseling staff at the 2 One Stops sees this area as a gap for many of our clients.

The Committee reviewed the revised goals prior to the full WIB voting on the goals for 2013-2014 at the meeting on January 28. There were no corrections or additions. Gloria asked staff to obtain copies of Literacy goals from some of the other WIBs to compare and contrast to ours.

The next Literacy Committee meeting is March 4, 2014.

Minutes submitted by Jane Brady